

REMARKS

Claim 18 has been amended consistent with the Examiner's remarks. An amendment filed under Rule 116 via facsimile on August 22, 2006 incorporated the same changes to claim 18 made herein. This Rule 116 Amendment was thought to have been entered by the Examiner.

Unfortunately, the Appeal Brief filed on September 19, 2006 did not reflect all the changes made to claim 18 via the Rule 116 Amendment.

It is believed the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112 has been overcome by this amendment.


Regarding all of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 103, which are verbatim from the previous Final Rejection, the Examiner is kindly requested to review applicants' arguments in the Appeal Brief filed September 21, 2006. All arguments raised by appellants in the brief are herein incorporated by reference in these remarks.

Applicants' are displeased that the Examiner has reopened prosecution in this case on the basis of a minute typographical error in claim 18 recited in the appendix of the Appeal Brief. This delay in prosecution is unwarranted.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5-7, 10-14, and 18 are allowable over the art of record. Applicant respectfully solicits favorable action on these claims.

1/10/2007
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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